

Appl. No. 10/791038
Reply to Action dated 5/25/2006
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Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 15 with the following replacement paragraph:

As shown in FIG.2, the hood 11 includes a ~~feed~~ hood skin 11a disposed outside the engine room 14 and a hood frame 11b which is attached to the inner side of the hood skin 11a facing the engine room 14. The hood 11, which includes the hood ~~feed~~ skin 11a and the hood frame 11b, forms an air bag storage space 11c having a relatively large width and small depth for storing the air bag unit 2. The hood 11 includes a hood hinge 11d, around which the hood 11 pivots, opening or closing the engine room 14. A lock member 11g, which is disposed at a forward portion of the hood frame 11b, is engaged with a hood lock 5 attached to the vehicle body 1, so that the hood 11 is locked, securely closing the engine room 14.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 9 with the following replacement paragraph:

The inflated air bag 21 exerts pressure on the hood skin 11a and the hood ~~feed~~ frame 11b. In this way, the hood skin 11a pivots about the front hinge 11h in a direction shown by an arrow A with the boss 11f separating from the joint pin 11e, so that the opening 11i is formed as shown in FIG.3. The air bag 21 goes out through the opening 11i and deploys on the windshield 12. During this movement, the hood frame 11b holds the same position because it is mechanically connected to the vehicle body 1 by the hood hinge 11d. Therefore, the apparatus S does not require a conventional hood deployment mechanism because the inflated air bag 21 produces the pressure to induce the pivotal movement of the hood skin 11a.